



After graduating from Liberty, Rich enrolled at Penn State University and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education (Social Sciences). While at Penn State, he joined the ROTC and upon graduation received a commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Army and was subsequently promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and Captain.

Rich served in the Army from 1966 to 1968 and was assigned to the Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. As were many young men at that time, he was deployed to Vietnam's Central Highlands and served as a forward observer with the 4/42 Artillery, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. On

February 19, 1967, Rich's company (Company A) was engaged in a battle with the North Vietnamese. Surrounded by a superior enemy force, his company was ambushed and suffered 50% casualties. Although his position was exposed to intense enemy fire, Rich directed artillery fire and air strikes against the North Vietnamese. For his exceptional command, he received the Bronze Star for valor in a combat zone. He also received the Purple Heart for a wound sustained in a mortar attack (February 14, 1967).

Rich married Barbara Freeman (Liberty '63) and together they had three children; Richard who resides in Pennsylvania and is a Major in the United States Army, Robert who works as a surveyor in New Mexico, and Michelle who resides in Indiana and is employed in the insurance industry. Richard has provided them with 3 grandchildren and Michelle with one grandchild. Barb, who retired as a public school educator, taught at the Council Rock Elementary Schools and Pen Ryn, a private school.

After being discharged from the Army, Rich devoted his entire career (1968-1999) as an educator in the Lower Moreland School District, Huntingdon Valley, PA. Starting as a classroom teacher, he taught primarily 8<sup>th</sup> grade 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century American History, world history, geography and economics. Furthering his education, Rich received a Master's degree in History from Trenton State College (1973-1975) and his Certificate in Education Administration from Rider College (1976-1978). Following teaching, Rich became an Assistant Principal and Athletic Director. He also coached Track and Field for 25 years and was a Track and Field official for almost 40 years.

Not one to succumb to aging, Rich, began competitive running in 1975 at the ripe age of 32 and continued until he was into his 50's. He ran in several marathons including Boston, Philadelphia and New York. Aside from marathons, his main achievement was in Masters Track. He won the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regional Championships in the 3000 Meter run for men over 50, the Bronze Medal in the National Indoor Championships, and the Penn relays 5000 meter road race for men over 50. He also placed 14<sup>th</sup> in the National 8K XC championship.

Being a history enthusiast, Rich worked summers (1991-1999) as a Park Ranger with the National Park Service at Valley Forge National Historic Park (site of the 1777-78 winter encampment of the Continental Army) and as a tour guide (1991-2001) at Washington Crossing National Park (where Washington crossed the Delaware in December, 1776).

Since 2001, Rich has "worked" on a horse farm training riding horses. This is something he wanted to do since grade school (he wanted to be a jockey but got too big). Rich didn't start serious horseback riding until he was 58 years old. While in elementary school he had a few lessons at Bethlehem's old Patterson Stables but didn't stay with it for a variety of reasons. Rich is very proud of his beloved horse, King. Together, they have won numerous ribbons in western events and low-level riding competitions. Five years ago Rich rescued an older horse named Bart. Although not very competitive, Bart does provide Rich with friendship and affection.

Rich and Barbara do some traveling. During his Vietnam tour Rich traveled to Japan and together he and Barb have been to Germany and Austria. Barb visited Italy and France with her church group. In the future they would like to visit one of the world's premier natural attractions, the Grand Canyon.

Together, Rich and Barb have led an interesting life. For them every day is a new day. Their life has been full of happiness, fulfillment and excitement. It certainly has not been uneventful.